(x) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of simulators for training of drivers.

(xi) Refresher courses are regularly organised at specified intervals.

(xii) Performance of the staff connected with train operations is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(xiii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

[English]

Gas Allocation to Pipavav Project

3718. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any commitment of gas allocation from Tapti Gas field to Pipavav project in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether allocation of gas has not so far been made;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the alternative arrangement Government propose to allocate gas to Pipavav power project from such other source?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) It was decided by the Central Government is 1989 to allocated Tapti gas to the Pipavav power project in Gujarat. At that time, there was a decision that the gas from Gandhar Gas field will be taken to Hazira and HBJ pipeline. Subsequently, at the request of Government of Gujarat, Gandhar gas was allocated to two power projects at Gandhar. Consequently, it was decided to take Tapti gas to Hazira and HBJ to meet existing commitments. Government of Gujarat has been advised to base the Pipavav project on alternative fuel.

[Translation]

Ban on 'Direct to Home' T.V. Service

3719. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Direct to Home' T.V. Service has been totally banned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time since when this ban has been imposed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) The Government have introduced the Broadcasting Bill, 1997 in Lok Sabha on 16.5.97, which, *inter-alia*, provides for regulation and licensing of Direct-to-Home television services. The Bill is currently under consideration of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. With a view to prevent preemption of the proposed broadcasting law by foreign entities, as may be passed by the Parliament in this regard, Ministry of Communications, Department to Telecommunication have issued a notification dated 16.7.97 prohibiting establishment, maintenance, operation and possession of equipments capable of received signal above the frequency band 4800 MHz.

Construction of Bridge over River Ganga in Patna

3720. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether provision has been made in 1997-98 Railway budget for the construction of a bridge in Patna over river Ganga;

(b) if so, the details of works undertaken in this direction upto July, 1997; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Final Location Survey and detailed investigations for this bridge have been taken up through M/s RITES.

(c) During the 10th Plan period subject to availability of resources.

Allocation of Liquid Fuel

3721. SHRI B.K. GADHVI :
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for allocation of liquid fuel for various power projects in the States particularly in Kerala and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their requirement and the actual allocation made, project-wise; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to allocate liquid fuel as per requirements to all the States?